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**NBC BRIEFING**

**22 July 1959**

**ETHIOPIA**

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- I. **Emperor Haile Selassie's acceptance of Soviet credit (for \$100 million) and Czech credit [redacted] during his recent visit from 29 June to 17 July to bloc (USSR and Czechoslovakia poses additional problems in the West's relations with Ethiopia.**
  - A. **Moscow granted Ethiopia \$100 million long-term low interest line of credit [redacted] signed trade accord, and reached agreement in fields of technical assistance for agricultural and industrial development and cultural exchanges.**
  - B. **Czechs extended Ethiopia line of credit [redacted] and agreed to negotiate economic, technical, and cultural agreements.**
  - C. **Rumors persist in Ethiopia that secret protocols made covering military aid from both Moscow and Prague.**
  - D. **Prior to Emperor's trip, increasing bloc attempts to penetrate Ethiopia through political and commercial means largely unsuccessful.**
    1. **Moscow's efforts in past directed primarily through Soviet embassy, permanent information center, and 100-bed hospital in Addis Ababa which Soviets have operated since 1947.**
      - a. **Russian Red Cross had operated hospital for about 20 years prior to World War I.**

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2. Previously Czechs had granted  line of credit 25X1  
last year for purchase of hospital equipment and supplies;  
legation and permanent trade mission in Addis Ababa active,  
but relatively ineffective.
- a. Czech trade agreement signed in 1956 largely unimple-  
mented.

II. Reaction in Ethiopia to Emperor's agreements mixed, although  
generally one of approval.

- A. Ethiopian masses accept any act of Emperor as correct; expect  
country's economic difficulties now over.
- B. Most government personnel elated, but some top officials fear  
Emperor may have gone too far with agreements.
- C. Literate Ethiopians outside government apparently less jubilant,  
and some university students reportedly calling Emperor's action  
sell-out to Soviets.

III. Moscow has scored immediate propaganda victory in Ethiopia which  
may have wider repercussions through out Africa.

- A. Both Soviet and Ethiopian information media provided wide coverage  
of Emperor's laudatory remarks about USSR and its leaders.  
He toasted USSR as "greatest country in world."
- B. Moscow has announced Khrushchev and Voroshilov accepted an  
invitation to visit Ethiopia--date yet to be agreed upon.
- C. Arrival of numerous bloc technicians in Ethiopia would expose  
young, foreign-educated elements--already restive over slowness 25X1  
in attaining high positions--to Communist influence.

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- V. Emperor's primary intent probably to secure maximum assistance to solve country's economic difficulties, but probably also to stimulate U.S. interest in Ethiopia.
- A. Emperor, believing he has bloc support, may assume more independent attitude toward West and stronger pan-African posture. May create trouble in future for US in terms of our communications facilities at Asmara.

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